

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
HARRY L. HOPKINS, SECRETARY
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, DIRECTOR



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., February 6, 1939.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for publication the sixtieth issue of the Statistical Abstract of the United States. This annual volume is a compilation of authoritative statistics relating to the social and economic condition of the population and to the industrial, commercial, and governmental activities of the Nation. It is designed to serve as a convenient reference work for businessmen, economists, statisticians, students, and others who may have need of a statistical compendium covering a wide range of subjects.

The first 34 issues of the Abstract were prepared and published by the Bureau of Statistics, originally a bureau of the Treasury Department and later of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and the next 25 by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, now of the Department of Commerce. The present volume was prepared in the Bureau of the Census under the direction of Kathleen H. Dugan and the supervision of the late Dr. Joseph A. Hill, chief statistician for the Division of Statistical Research.

Realizing the importance of the early publication of this volume, the Bureau has not considered making any material changes in its form or content as compared with the recent previous issues; nor are any radical changes contemplated for the future or believed to be necessary. The Bureau plans, however, to introduce such revisions or new features as will add to the usefulness of the volume, and in that connection will welcome suggestions from those who use the Abstract as a book of reference.

The statistical tables contained in the Abstract are compilations of data collected by the various statistical agencies of the Federal Government, by several State agencies, and by a considerable number of nongovernmental organizations. Many of these agencies have rendered valuable assistance not only in supplying advance data but also in the actual preparation of tables for inclusion in the Abstract. Special mention on this account is due the following-named agencies of the Federal Government: The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the Bureau of Fisheries, and the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, of the Department of Commerce; the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Forest Service, and the Weather Bureau, of the Department of Agriculture; the Office of Education, the General Land Office, and the Bureau of Mines, of the Department of the Interior; the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the Department of Labor; the Bureau of Internal Revenue, of the Treasury Department; the Farm Credit Administration; the Federal Communications Commission; the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; the Interstate Commerce Commission; the United States Maritime Commission; the Social Security Board; and the Veterans' Administration.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN,
Director of the Census.

TO HON. HARRY L. HOPKINS,
Secretary of Commerce.

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